**HAWAI`I STATE - COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD (HS-COF)**

**Friday, May 24, 2024**

**Time:  12:30 pm**

**Location**: Queen Liliuokalani Building, 1390 Miller St, Conference Room 2F, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Recorded Meeting Link:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlVfWqGhIDA**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UlVfWqGhIDA)

**Meeting Call to Order: [12:34 pm]**

**MISSION Statement – read by Commissioner Esmond (0:37-0:55)**

**[From Chapter 577E, Hawaii Revised Statutes] The mission of the Hawaii State - Commission on Fatherhood (HS-COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the importance of fathers in the lives of their children. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies and laws relating to children and families.**

**I. Rollcall, Introductions and Updates: (1:09-12:14)**

**Commissioners Present:**

(All from 12:34pm to 2:11pm)

* Jeff Esmond, Chair
* Alan Sunio
* Kawika Mattos
* Allen Cardines
* Brian Alston
* Marty Oliphant

**Ex-officios Present:**

Matthew Shim, DOH

Malia Taum-Deenik, DHS

**Sunshine Law Monitors:**

Deputy Erin Yamashiro

Deputy Lili Young

**Guests Present:**

Neel Chauhan

Jed Tesoro

**II. Community shares or concerns (12:15-16:34):**

(Public Testimony) Jed Tesoro asks Commissioner Esmond if his position is interim or not interim and Commissioner Esmond clarifies that he will get appointed as an interim commissioner and explains the process of becoming a commissioner once approved.

**III. Ongoing Business and Updates (16:35-1:19:38)**

1. Community shares or concerns - Public Testimony (allow 1 minute)
	1. *This agenda has no item III, a.*
2. Fatherhood Conference – update from HS-COF Representative Commissioner Cardines
	1. Commissioner Cardines states that there is no update, however he will reach out to see if anything moves forward.

c. Periodic Newsletter – update from Commissioner Esmond and/or Alston

Commissioner Esmond states that the commission is waiting on admin staff to help with the email database.

d. Central Information Clearinghouse – updates from Commissioner Alston and/or Esmond

 Commissioner Esmond shares that there is no update for the Central Information Clearinghouse.

e. Annual Awards – Review of applications, process, scheduling and outreach, including debriefing and brainstorming our process.

i. Aloha Father of the Year Awards

 a. Commissioner Esmond shares that there are currently 3 applicants that have been submitted from Commissioners Alston, Cardines, and Mattos.

ii. Parent-Friendly Business of the Year Award

1. Commissioner Esmond shares that there are no applicants currently.

iii. Sponsorship Awards

1. Commissioner Esmond shares that there are two applicants, one from Maui Family Support Services and the other from GOD Forgives Bad Boys and Girls. Commissioner Mattos shares about the Annual Celebration of Fathers and Families and Stanford Children Event.
2. **Commissioner Esmond makes a motion to approve the application for Maui Family Support Services in the amount of $1,500, seconded by Commissioner Oliphant, unanimously approved (28:47).**
3. **Commissioner Esmond** **makes a motion to confirm the prior approval of the sponsorship for GOD Forgives Bad Boys and Girls in the amount of $1,500. Seconded by Commissioner Alston, unanimously approved (30:53).**

f. Officer nominations and elections

a. Commissioner Esmond shares that officer nominations/elections will not be held this year; however, he asks the commissioners to consider what positions they would like to take on. He continues that he would like to hold off on elections until at least two more commissioners can be brought on.

 g. Administrative Staff

a. Malia clarifies information about the Administrative Assistant position that has been internally posted, which entails 20 hours to the COF and LGBTQ+ Commissions respectively and could be a hybrid position if needed.

h. Father’s Day or other event 2024 - Brainstorming, discussion, celebration

a. Commissioner Alston suggests an annual meeting for DHS attached commissions to get together, although Commissioner Esmond expresses that this is most likely not something that can be planned by June. Commissioner Alston suggests that it be a luncheon or gathering (virtual or in person). He also suggests using the get together to make acknowledgements and/or present awards. Commissioner Sunio reminds the commission that for several years, the commission had a Father’s Day celebration in Windward Mall and suggests a picnic at Kapiolani park to bring the organizations there. Commissioner Esmond suggests a formal presentation in October rather than rushing to plan for Father’s Day. Deputy Yamashiro reminds the commission that a get together of this nature could be considered a board meeting and be subject to Sunshine Laws.

i. Budget Review for current fiscal year (Vote)

a. Commissioner Esmond shares that the commission is projected to spend $7,000 out of $22,400 budget.

**Commissioner Esmond moves that within the budget, the line item that calls for in person neighbor island meeting be allowed to attend sponsor events on neighbor island that includes any and all travel expenses that are necessary, seconded by Commissioner Oliphant, unanimously approved (1:18:54)**

**IV. Legislative Update (1:19:39-1:24:13)**

a. Act 156 Task Force on Parentage Laws

i. Commissioner Esmond shares that the Task Force is currently working on assembling a request for a draft bill to be submitted to legislature.

b. Update on testimony

i. HB1598 Relating to the Sunshine Law; Commissioner Esmond shares that he submitted testimony on behalf of the commission in the form of comments regarding the board packet submission but not in support or opposition.

**VI. Professional Development (1:24:14-1:24:36)**

1. *This agenda has no item VI.*

**VII. Upcoming Meetings (1:24:37-1:33:38)**

a. Commissioner Esmond reminds the commission of last meeting’s discussion regarding Commissioners Alston and Matos to Oahu for an in-person get together. The commission tentatively agrees on June 28th with travel.

b. Next Meetings

i. June 14 or 28, 2024

ii. July 19 or 26, 2024

iii. August 16, 2024

**VIII. Topics and Speakers for Upcoming Meetings (Vote) (1:33:39-)**

a. Commissioner Cardines updates the commission regarding his meeting with Major Lambert of HPD Narcotics and shares that Major Lambert was grateful for the community support standing with law enforcement and the prosecutor to oppose recreational marijuana. Commissioner Cardines expresses the importance of education on the detrimental effects of marijuana and proposes that Major Lambert be a guest speaker in a future meeting.

**IX. Conclusion (Vote)**

1. Final Thoughts
	1. Commissioner Esmond thanks the commissioners for attending the meeting and expresses his relief that the commission got through the two applications for the Sponsorship awards.

b. Vote to Adjourn

**Adjourn Meeting– Motion by Esmond, 2nd by Commissioner Sunio, unanimously approved (2:11 pm)**